

AC 44451(3) MELFORD

THE MELFORD RURAL DISTRICT

IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY OF WEST SUFFOLK.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1935

(Pursuant to the Regulations of the Local Government Board).

SINCE the last report the district has been changed in area: S. Bartholomew, Hawkedon and Cavendish are no longer in the district, and Glemsford is included in it.

This change will make comparison with former reports difficult. In Section A, the figures for the old district are given to show the change.

SECTION A.

1.—Statistics and Social Conditions.

Population, new district	...	...	...	11,559
(Registrar's estimate)				
„ old district...	...	...	...	11,170
Area new district	...	...	...	47,270
old district	...	...	...	49,850
Number of inhabited houses, new district	...			3,410
old district	...			3,455
Assessable value, new district	...	...	...	£40,391
old district	...	...	...	£39,098
Sum represented by a penny rate, new district				£151
old district...				£148

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The occupation of the majority of the inhabitants still remains agricultural, but there is a slight increase in the number of persons working in factories.

2.—Extract of Vital Statistics of the year.

LIVE BIRTHS.	} Legitimate,	<i>Total.</i> 137 } 6 }	<i>M.</i> 70 4 }	<i>F.</i> 67 2 }	} 143	Birth Rate per 1000, 12.4.	England & Wales, 14.7.
STILL BIRTHS.	} Legitimate,	5 } 0 }	3 0 }	2 0 }	} 5	Rate per 1000 total births, 33.8.	
							} Illegitimate,
DEATHS.	{ Male, 96 } Female, 71 }	167	Death Rate { Gross 14.5 10.29	England and Wales, 11.7.			
					Death Rate corrected to make it comparable with England and Wales.		

Number of women dying in consequence of child-birth } from sepsis ... 0 } Total ... 0.
other causes ... 0 }

Maternal Mortality per 1000 Live Births.	<i>Puerperal Sepsis.</i>	<i>Other Causes.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
(a) Local... ..	0	0	0
(b) England and Wales	1.68	2.42	4.10

Maternal Mortality per 1000 Total Births.

(a) Local... ..	0	0	0
(b) England and Wales	1.61	2.32	3.93

Deaths of Infants under one year per 1000 Illegitimate Births,	166.6	
" " " 1000 Legitimate " "	51.0	
" " " 1000 Births ...	55.9	England & Wales, 57.

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0
" " Whooping Cough (all ages)	0
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	0

CAUSES OF SICKNESS.

No causes of sickness call for special attention.

SECTION B.

General Provisions of Health Services.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health—part time.

Sanitary Inspector—one—whole time. Diploma of Royal Sanitary Institute. Diploma of Sanitary Inspectors' Association.

One full time Clerk.

A. LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Arrangements have been made by the County Council for the examination of clinical material (sputum swabs, etc.) at the West Suffolk General Hospital.

B. AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

(1) For Infectious cases, none available. When cases are sent to Colchester the ambulance belonging to that borough is kindly lent for the purpose.

(2) For non-infectious cases. A motor ambulance is maintained by the British Red Cross Society at Bury St. Edmund's. This can be hired, and the charge is sometimes reduced for necessitous cases.

There is now a motor ambulance available in the southern half of the area.

This is kept at Sudbury, by the British Red Cross Society, and can be called for emergencies by telephoning Sudbury 71.

C. NURSING IN THE HOME.

The following parishes have District Nurses, who are also midwives :—Acton, Bridge Street, Assington, Boxted, Bures St. Mary, Cavendish, Great Waldingfield, Little Waldingfield, Hartest, Lawshall, Melford, Nayland-c.-Wiston, Newton (serving Leavenheath), Stoke-by-Nayland, Somerton, and Stanstead.

During 1935, Shimpling and Alpheton had no District Nurse, but these are going to be included in the Hartest District Association.

Part of Chilton is still served by the Sudbury Nurse.

There are no arrangements for nursing Infectious cases.

D. CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

None maintained by Local Authority.

No change in those maintained by County Council.



E. HOSPITALS.

None maintained by Local Authority.

No change in arrangements for the admission of infectious diseases to Colchester Isolation Hospital.

SECTION C.

Sanitary Conditions in the Area.

WATER.

Water is obtained over the greater part of the area from scattered wells. Chemical analysis of water from these wells is done as required. Forty-one samples examined in all, eleven of these were of one well which had been bored by the Rural District Council, and contaminated water found at 346ft.

Of the other 30 samples, 14 declared fit, 14 referred, and 2 declared unfit.

Of the 14 referred, 10 were of 2 wells which were giving water of uncertain quality.

Glemsford has come into the Melford Rural District during the year. This has a public supply of fair quality in ample quantity.

Nayland has an old public supply to standards in the street. The supply at the source is ample, but the flow at the standards is slow due to corrosion in the pipes. The replacement of the pipes is under consideration.

Little Waldingfield has a new public supply to standards in the street. This was necessitated by the failure of the old public well.

A considerable amount of consideration has been given to 2 schemes for a piped supply to the district.

These schemes remained under consideration at the end of the year.

The need of a supply in the built-up areas of Cornard, Melford and Bures is marked.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

There has been no change during the year, but a scheme to improve matters in Glemsford has been under consideration during the year, but work has not commenced.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

Contamination of the river by washings from a gas-produced plant has been prevented during the year.

CLOSET ACCOMODATION.

Number in district at end of year.

(1) Privies 1193. (2) Pail Closets 1554. (3) W.C.s 323.

These figures are altered owing to the inclusion of Glemsford in the area. Here there are a number of W.C.s. Up till this year water closets were confined to large houses and were under private control.

SCAVENGING.

No change during the year.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No action taken.

SWIMMING BATHS.

There are none in the area.

SCHOOLS.

No change has taken place in the water supply or the sanitary condition of the schools.

No schools were closed during 1935.

SHOPS.

No action taken under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF AREA.

Below is a tabulated statement of the work carried out in the various parishes.
The work is very well carried out.

	Acton.	Alpheton.	Assington.	Boxted.	Bures St. Mary.	Glensford	Chilton.	Great Cornard.	Little Cornard.	Hartest.	Lawshall.	Leavenheath.	Melford.	Nayland with Wissington.	Newton.	Shimpling.	Somerton.	Stoke-by- Nayland.	Stanstead.	Gt. Waldingfield.	Lt. Waldingfield.	TOTAL
Complaints received	2	2	4	0	9	4	2	8	0	6	5	...	14	5	2	...	...	3	1	2	2	71
Nuisances detected	9	5	3	2	14	23	3	8	4	20	7	3	35	14	5	2	1	9	7	19	4	197
Nuisances abated by Statutory Notice served	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Nuisances abated without notice served	8	5	3	2	14	23	3	8	4	20	6	3	34	13	4	2	1	9	7	19	4	192
Nuisances being dealt with	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	2	...	4	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Offensive accumulations removed	2	2	3	0	12	...	1	10	1	5	3	1	60	6	3	2	...	2	3	2	2	119
Houses newly erected	2	...	1	...	...	1	...	14	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	...	...	3	...	25
Houses in course of erection	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	10
Houses disinfected	...	...	1	...	1	2	5	7	...	...	4	1	11	4	1	...	...	4	1	...	...	42
Filthy houses cleansed	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	5
Houses overcrowded (abated)	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	4
Schools inspected	1	1	1	...	1	1	...	1	...	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	...	1	1	1	1	18
Schools disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Wells (new)	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	1	1	1	...	1	1	15
Wells (cleaned out, deepened, etc.)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	3
Samples of water taken for analysis	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	2	1	5	11	...	...	...	...	2	2	14	...	2	1	41
Privies (new)	6	...	...	...	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	3	...	...	...	...	...	2	5	...	20
Privies (repaired)	1	1	2	4	4	2	1	3	...	8	...	1	6	2	1	1	...	3	1	7	...	48
Privies (converted into pail closets)	6	1	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	8	...	1	5	...	1	...	...	...	...	4	...	32
Sewers (repaired, relaid, etc.)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Ditches cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	6
Sink pipes disconnected	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	5
Drains (new)	2	...	...	...	...	3	...	15	1	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	25
Drains (improved)	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	3	...	...	...	...	3	1	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	13
Drains tested with water	2	...	...	...	1	2	...	15	1	...	...	...	3	1	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	28
Slaughter Houses inspected	...	...	1	...	1	3	...	1	...	2	1	...	4	4	1	1	...	3	...	1	...	23
Dairies and Cowsheds inspected	4	1	5	1	3	8	4	4	1	4	2	2	10	4	3	2	...	4	2	3	2	69
Dairies and Cowsheds repaired, etc.	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	3	1	...	...	...	1	2	1	...	13
Animals improperly kept, removed	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	4
Bakehouses inspected	...	...	1	...	1	5	...	1	...	2	...	1	7	3	...	...	...	2	1	...	1	25
Workshops inspected	1	1	1	...	3	4	...	2	...	3	...	...	12	3	1	1	...	1	...	1	1	35
Outworkers' visited	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	4	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Outworkers' lists received	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Total number of inspections and visits made	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1840
Letters sent out	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	408
House-to-house inspection	150	...	...	...	...	384	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	237	...	...	...	...	88	...	...	859

GEO. F. RAMPLING, M.S.I.A., Sanitary Inspector.

SECTION D.—HOUSING.

Housing Statistics for the Year.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
(b) With state assistance under Housing Acts, 1919 or 1923 :—								
(i.) By the Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
(ii.) By other bodies or persons	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Houses owned by Local Authority, 1919 Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	104
Houses owned by Local Authority, 1925 Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	44

Unfit Houses.

I. INSPECTION.

(1)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	...	859
	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	...	859
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	...	...	...	...	...	750
	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	...	750
(3)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	9
(4)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to above) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	44

II. REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICE.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by local Authority or their officers	39
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III. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

A. Proceedings under Sections 17, 18 and 23, Housing Act, 1930.

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	...	...	28
(2)	Number of houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice :—						
	(a) By Owners	...	...	...	...	...	28
	(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	...	...	...	...	...	0

B. Proceedings under Public Health Act.

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	...	...	2
(2)	Number of houses which were rendered fit :—						
	(a) By Owners	...	...	...	...	...	0
	(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	...	...	...	...	...	0

C. Proceedings under Sections 19 and 21 of Housing Act, 1930.

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	6
(2)	Number demolished	...	...	...	...	...	3

D. Proceedings under Section 20 of Housing Act, 1930.

(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	0
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...	...	...	...	0

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

MILK.

All cowsheds and dairies are registered either as Wholesale Producers or Retail Purveyors.

There are 20 of the former and 49 of the latter on the register.

Examinations of samples is done by the County Council ; none done by the Local Authority.

Total samples of milk examined, 4.

RETAIL PURVEYORS.

No. on register 49.

Number of Inspections of premises	...	350
„ Contraventions found	...	13
„ „ remedied	...	13

COW KEEPERS.

No. on register 20.

Number of Inspections	...	90
„ Contraventions found	...	15
„ „ remedied	...	15
„ found to require cleansing	...	18
„ „ „ structural alteration		6

MILK (Special Designations) ORDER 1923.

This is administered by the County Council.

MEAT.

MEAT INSPECTION.

All slaughter houses are visited at the time of slaughter.
There is no Public Slaughter House.

NUMBER OF PRIVATE SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

	In Dec., 1934.			In Dec., 1935.		
Registered	19	...	...	22
Licensed	1	...	...	1
			—			—
Total	...	20			23	
		—			—	

Number of Inspections of premises 420.
„ „ Meat at time of slaughter 400.
The mutual insurance run by the Butchers Association against meat being condemned is working well, so that meat is surrendered if it is in any way of doubtful quality.
Meat condemned during the year—Pork 605 lbs., Beef 1992 lbs.

CHEMICAL & BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.

This is under the County Council. No action taken by Local Authority.

NUTRITION.

No work has been done for the dissemination of knowledge of this subject.

SECTION F.

Notifiable Diseases.

SCARLET FEVER.

There have been 21 cases notified. Of these 4 were cases which came into the area already infected, and 2 were cases infected outside the district.
Of the 15 not accounted for, 6 were in one family. They were all of a mild type.

DIPHTHERIA.

There were 2 cases; both of which arose outside the area.

DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING 1935.

Disease.	Total Cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	21	15	...
Erysipelas	1	...	...
Diphtheria	2	2	...
Anterior Poliomyelitis	1	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	...	...
Pneumonia	3	...	...

AGE OF INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Cases.	Under year.	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	20—	35—	45—	65 & over.
Scarlet Fever	1	...	1	1	7	3	1	6	...	1	...
Erysipelas	1	...
Diphtheria	1	...	...	2	...	...	...
Anterio Poliomyelitis	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	...	...	...
Pneumonia	1	...	...	...	...	.	2

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.				New Cases.				Deaths.			
				Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
				M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under one year ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
1— ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5— ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10— ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15— ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20— .. ...	...	...	.	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
25— ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	...
35— ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
45— ... ..	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	...
55— ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
65 and over ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total ... ..	...	...	...	1	1	0	1	4	3	0	0
				2		1		7		0	

PUBLIC HEALTH (Prevention of Tuberculosis) REGULATIONS, 1925.

No action was necessary under these regulations.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

No cases notified.

Non-Notifiable Infectious Diseases.

MUMPS.

There was a sharp epidemic of Mumps in Stoke-by-Nayland School during Sept., Oct., and November.

MEASLES.

An epidemic of measles also occurred in Stoke-by-Nayland in January, February and March.

CHICKEN POX.

A few scattered cases have been notified by schools scattered over the area.

R. W. RIX, M.O.H.

